

Buried Treasure

Pastor Jake Spencer October 04, 2015

My Kingdom

- **Luke 12:16-19**

(16) Then He spoke a parable to them, saying: "The ground of a certain rich man yielded plentifully. (17) And he thought within himself, saying, 'What shall I do, since I have no room to store my crops?' (18) So he said, 'I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build greater, and there I will store all my crops and my goods. (19) And I will say to my soul, "Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years; take your ease; eat, drink, and be merry."

Pause — doesn't living like this sound great? But then Jesus continues the story.

- **Luke 12:20-23**

(20) But God said to him, 'Fool! This night your soul will be required of you; then whose will those things be which you have provided?' (21) "So is he who lays up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God." (22) Then He said to His disciples, "Therefore I say to you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat; nor about the body, what you will put on. (23) Life is more than food, and the body is more than clothing.

God's Response is jarring — FOOL!

This is the danger of laying up treasure for yourself — it doesn't last!

What is an illusion for most of us is verses 16-19; even if it is not, God is exposing it as such.

What is real is that we spend all our lives either:

Striving for Our Desires (food – to take our ease, eat, drink, be merry!).

Stressing over Our Security (clothes – covering & security).

Most of our existence is in toil & worry over these things.

My Kingdom can boil down to Gathering & Guarding in order to be Satisfied & Secure.

Jesus is calling us to consider — Does what I pursue satisfy? Does it provide true security?

God's Kingdom

- **Luke 12:24-28**

(24) Consider the ravens, for they neither sow nor reap, which have neither storehouse nor barn; and God feeds them. Of how much more value are you than the birds? (25) And which of you by worrying can add one cubit to his stature? (26) If you then are not able to do the least, why are you anxious for the rest? (27) Consider the lilies, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin; and yet I say to you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. (28) If then God so clothes the grass, which today is in the field and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, how much more will He clothe you, O you of little faith?

Notice what God does — He calls us to consider:

Simple – does this remind you of anything? (The Garden of Eden)

Tangible & Real – God's Kingdom is rooted in reality (the spiritual is practical).

Needs are met & Worry is gone.

Key Verse: 26 – *you can't do the least thing! (This is the Bad News, but also the Good News.)*

The Crossroads

- **Luke 12:29-30**

- (29) And do not seek what you should eat or what you should drink, nor have an **anxious mind**.
(30) For all these things the nations of the world seek after, and your Father knows that you need these things.

**We stand (with the whole world) at The Crossroads —
My Kingdom or His Kingdom**

Anxious Mind

To suspend in mid-air...

Root word is like the word meteorite – an inanimate rock, stuck floating in space

Fluctuating between Hope & Fear

This is an ancient problem:

- **Genesis 3:6-10**

- (6) So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate. (7) Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves coverings. (8) And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. (9) Then the LORD God called to Adam and said to him, "Where are you?" (10) So he said, "I heard Your voice in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; and I hid myself."

This issue of Food and Clothes goes all the way back to the garden.

(Vs. 6) Food = Desires — Lust Flesh, Lust Eyes, Pride of Life

(Vs. 7-10) Clothes = Security — a desire to cover or hide from being exposed — rooted in fear!

**But — Jesus stands at the Crossroads with a Map —
to the real treasure!**

Treasure Map — Seek and Sell

- **Luke 12:31-34**

- (31) But seek the kingdom of God, and all these things shall be added to you. (32) "Do not fear, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. (33) Sell what you have and give alms; provide yourselves money bags which do not grow old, a treasure in the heavens that does not fail, where no thief approaches nor moth destroys. (34) For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

We Seek and Sell (To barter or Trade), but He Gives and Adds!

So — what do I sell?

- The things that I Love and Value most —
 - How do I know what those are?
Desire and Anxiety point to what I truly Love and Value
 - What do I find myself longing and striving for?
 - What occupies my mind and makes me anxious?
 - Examples
 - Men — Freedom (that's a good thing)
 - Problem — when it's central — it makes an enemy of anything that gets in the way (out of balance)
 - Like — wife, kids, responsibilities
 - Women — Peace in the home (that's a good thing)
 - Problem — when it's central it makes an enemy of anything that gets in the way (out of balance)
 - Like — husband, kids, responsibilities

***This kind of living** can cause Men to act like boys, & Wives to act like moms. And everyone loses!*

***What if** — I sold my deep desire for freedom, or my anxious need for peace — and exchanged it for His Kingdom?*

***Remember** — He Gives and Adds (do I trust that?)*

Seek — how do I seek?

**Seek vs. Anxiety —
this is what happens when I trade floating for finding!**

Seek vs. Anxiety

Have you ever struggled with Trusting or Loving God?

Do I believe that if I value Him over these things, that He will provide Satisfaction & Security that lasts?

Why does it often seem so difficult to seek Him?

It's so hard to Love Him, and this way of life seems so hidden to us...

- **Matthew 13:44**
 - Again, the kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and hid; and for joy over it he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

**It's like hidden treasure —
so you value it and go after it.**

***Consider this** — if Value=Love, then start by assigning value to His Kingdom, and watch love for Him grow!*

Yes, it's hidden — but it can be found —

- **Colossians 3:1-4**
 - (1) If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. (2) Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. (3) For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. (4) When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory.

**This isn't about a one-time decision,
it's about living a life of Selling and Seeking,
and learning to trust that He will Give and Add.**

Good old-fashioned Bible word for Selling & Seeking – Repentance

When you seek Him by setting your mind to exchanging your earthly treasure for His, then you find Him, and in the process, you actually find yourself hidden in Him!

You want to have a glorious moment? Catch a glimpse of Jesus appearing in your life!

Our life in Christ

Seeking His Kingdom – by Exchanging Mine for His, and then finding He keeps giving it back – with wonderful new additions!!!

Homework on Seek and Sell – Study Colossians 3:5-25

Who is God's treasure?

- **Luke 12:34**
 - For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also...
- **Matthew 13:44**
 - Again, the kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and hid; and for joy over it he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

His Treasure? It's you!

House of Prayer

Click on "House of Prayer" on www.gracechapel.net to fill out a prayer request.

We pray for requests for one month, and at our weekly prayer meetings.

Please come join our House of Prayer,
Tuesday, October 6th at 6:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary.